

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of outputting a television program to a viewer, comprising:

5 receiving a highlight content segment, wherein the highlight content segment includes information associated with a particular subject;

 receiving a detail content segment, wherein the detail content segment includes additional information associated
10 with the particular subject;

 storing in a memory the highlight and detail content segments;

 generating an output script that is associated with the highlight and detail content segments;

15 accessing and outputting the highlight content segment in accordance with the script; and

 receiving during the output of the highlight content segment a command to output additional information associated with the particular subject; and

20 accessing and outputting the detail content segment in response to the command.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying to the viewer a menu that alerts the viewer that the
25 command can be received.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the script sequences the highlight segment for output prior to the detail segment.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving during the output of the detail content segment a second command to skip to a subsequent content segment associated with the output script; and

5 accessing and outputting the subsequent content segment in response to the second command.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the content is one of a video segment, a music segment, a still drawing, a chart,
10 and a web page.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a payment for outputting the television program.

15 7. A method of presenting a television program to a viewer, comprising:

storing in a memory a viewer preference, wherein the preference identifies a subject of particular interest to a viewer;

20 receiving and storing in the memory a plurality of content segments and a plurality of metadata tags, wherein for each unique one of the content segments a unique one of the metadata tags is associated, and wherein each metadata tag includes at least one attribute that identifies a
25 subject of the associated content segment;

identifying the metadata tags that include attributes corresponding to the preference;

using the identified metadata tags to generate an output program script;

30 accessing selected stored video segments in accordance with the output script; and

displaying the accessed content segments.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the attribute is one of a time, a date, a title, a director, and an event.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the received content
5 segments are part of at least one television program.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the received and stored content segments are accumulated over a period of time.

10 11. The method of claim 7 wherein the content segments are one of the following: a video portion, an audio portion, a still drawing, a chart, and a web page.

15 12. The method of claim 7 wherein receiving and storing in the plurality of content segments and a plurality of metadata tags occurs in a secondary memory device.

13. A method of outputting selected portions of a television program to a viewer, comprising:

20 receiving at least a portion of a television program that includes a plurality of video segments, wherein each of a selected number of the video segments is associated with a unique highlight of the program;

storing the selected number of video segments;

25 receiving metadata tags, wherein for each unique one of the selected video segments a unique one of the metadata tags is associated, and wherein each metadata tag includes an attribute that identifies a subject of the associated video segment as a highlight of the program;

30 storing data associated with the metadata tags;

using the stored data to generate an output program script for outputting the selected number of video segments to the viewer;

accessing the selected number of video segments in
accordance with the script; and
outputting the accessed video segments to the viewer.

5 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the metadata tags are
periodically received during reception of the program.

15 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the metadata tags are
received after reception of the program.

10 16. The method of claim 13 wherein the metadata tags are
received before reception of the program.

15 17. The method of claim 13 further comprising receiving a
command from the viewer to output highlights of the television
program, and the accessing and outputting of the selected number
of video segments occurs in response to the received command.

20 18. The method of claim 13 wherein the command is received
during broadcast of the program, and the selected number of
video segments that are output are associated with only a
portion of the program already broadcast.

25 19. A method of storing video information, comprising:
storing in a memory a viewer preference, wherein the
preference identifies a subject of particular interest to a
viewer;

30 receiving a content segment of a program that includes
a plurality of segments, and receiving a metadata tag
associated with the content segment, wherein the metadata
tag includes an attribute associated with a subject matter
of the content segment;

comparing the attribute and the preference; and

storing in a second memory the content segment if the attribute corresponds to the preference.

20. A video output system comprising:

5 a receiving unit;

a content manager coupled to the receiving unit;

a video cache memory coupled to the content manager,
wherein the cache memory includes a content memory portion
and a metadata memory portion;

10 a show flow engine coupled to the cache memory; and

a rendering engine coupled to the show flow engine.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising a
sensor/decoder unit coupled to the rendering engine, wherein the
15 sensor/decoder unit receives coded signals from a transmitter
activated by a viewer.

22. The system of claim 20 further comprising a viewer
preference memory coupled to the content manager and to the show
20 flow engine.

23. The system of claim 20 further comprising a gateway to
a communications system coupled to the content manager.

25 24. The system of claim 20 wherein the communications
system is the Internet.

25. The system of claim 20 wherein the receiving unit and
the cache memory are parts of an audio-video tuner/disk
30 combination.